Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the implications of China's modernisation of its nuclear missile capabilities for strategic stability and nuclear deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Nuclear modernisation, intercontinental ballistic missiles, road-mobile launch systems, solid-fuel propulsion, MIRV technology, second-strike capability, nuclear deterrence, strategic stability, arms race, arms control

Model Answer

Introduction

China's modernisation of its nuclear arsenal, including the reported induction of the DF-61 intercontinental ballistic missile, reflects developments in strategic weapons and nuclear deterrence.

Strategic Implications

Road-mobile missile systems improve survivability by making launch locations difficult to predict. Solid-fuel propulsion enables faster launch readiness, while MIRV technology, where deployed, can increase the number of targets threatened by a single missile.

Such developments may strengthen second-strike capabilities and influence the strategic calculations of other nuclear-armed countries.

Challenges to Regional Stability

Nuclear modernisation can intensify strategic competition, encourage arms racing and increase the risk of miscalculation during geopolitical crises. Greater missile capabilities also complicate strategic assessments in the Indo-Pacific.

Way Forward

India should strengthen credible minimum deterrence, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, and strategic preparedness. Dialogue, confidence-building measures, crisis communication and international arms-control efforts are essential to reduce escalation risks.

Conclusion

Nuclear deterrence must be accompanied by transparency, restraint and diplomatic engagement to preserve strategic stability and prevent conflict.

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